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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Shinotsuka, et al. :
Application No. 10/693,204 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: October 24, 2003 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a) (3)
Attorney Docket No. 7272-131/10312233: AND 37 CFR 1.55(c)

This is a decision on the "COMBINED PETITION FOR UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a) AND 1.55(c)", filed June 7, 2007, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365 (c) for the benefit of the filing date of PCT application No. PCT/JP02/003089, filed March 28, 2002, and to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) for the benefit of the filing date of foreign application Nos. JP 2001-170263 (filed August 27, 2001), JP 2001-330010 (filed September 20, 2001), JP 2001-385276 (filed November 13, 2001), and JP 2002-79681 (filed February 14, 2002).

The petitions are GRANTED.

The pending nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and did not include a reference to the foreign application for which benefit is now sought, within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior foreign application. Since the claim for priority is submitted after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1)(i), this is an appropriate petition under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.55(c).

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;

(2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date and be included either in an oath or declaration (37 CFR 1.63(c)(2)) or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(b)(6));

(3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);

(4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. (The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.); and

(5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

The PCT application upon which the instant nonprovisional application claims priority was filed on March 28, 2002, which is after November 29, 2000 and within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign applications to which priority is now being claimed. With the instant petition, applicant has submitted an ADS identifying the foreign applications for which priority is claimed by application number, country, and filing date. The required petition fee of \$1,370 was received with the petition. Lastly, petitioner provided a proper statement of unintentional delay.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

(1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;

(2) the surcharge set forth in 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may

require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

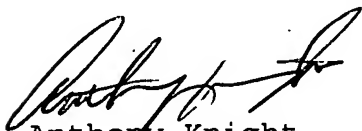
The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) in that (1) a reference to the above-noted, prior-filed application has been included in an ADS; (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed applications satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, 119 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78 and 1.55 must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

The application is being forwarded to Group Art Unit 2622.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to Petitions Attorney Cliff Congo at (571)272-3207.



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Enc: Corrected Filing Receipt



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
10/693,204	10/24/2003	2622	2596	7272-131/ 10312233	32	16

CONFIRMATION NO. 2344

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000032329750

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Date Mailed: 09/29/2008

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections

Applicant(s)

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Assignment For Published Patent Application

Honda Giken Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 000167

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of PCT/JP02/03089 03/28/2002

Foreign Applications

JAPAN 2001170263 04/27/2001
JAPAN 2001330010 09/20/2001
JAPAN 2001385276 11/13/2001
JAPAN 200279681 02/14/2002

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 01/23/2004

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 10/693,204**

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Output-compensating device and method of an image sensor

Preliminary Class

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PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER

Title 35, United States Code, Section 184

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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NOT GRANTED

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